

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

SS-15 M-03 A-01 L-03 SY-10 SCA-01 AID-20 USSS-00

DOT-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 RSR-01 /201 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS UN

SUBJ: UN AD HOC COMITE ON TERRORISM: STATUS OF WORK
AND FUTURE

1. SUMMARY. AS COMITE PASSES MID POINT IN SESSION, IT
CLEAR NOTHING MUCH WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. WE QUESTION
WHETHER RETENTION OF COMITE WILL SERVE OUR INTERESTS OR
BECOME AN ALBATROSS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS COMITE PASSES MID POINT IN SESSION WITH ONLY
DESULTORY GENERAL DEBATE TO SHOW FOR ITS EFFORT, IT CLEAR
THERE WILL BE NO USEFUL SUBSTANTIVE OF PROCEDURAL ACHIEVE-
MENTS AT THIS SESSION. THERE WILL NOT EVEN BE AGREEMENT ON
A HELPFUL PROCESS OF WORK WHICH CAN BE BUILT UPON IN
THE FUTURE.

3. THE WEST, EXCEPT FOR FRANCE, AND LATIN AMERICANS ARE
PREPARED TO TRY TO COMMENCE SOME SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF
THE PROBLEM OR AT LEAST TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH
CONSIDERATION IN THE FUTURE. THE AFRICANS AND ASIANS
(UNDER ALGERIAN, INDIAN, ARAB LEADERSHIP), EXCEPT FOR IRAN
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AND JAPAN, ARE BOUND AND DETERMINED TO INSURE THAT NO

USEFUL WORK IS DONE, AND THE SOVIETS, FAR FROM OPPOSING OBSTRUCTIONISM, SUPPORT IT IN PRUSUANCE THEIR COURTSHIP OF NON-ALIGNED.

4. IT APPEARS THIS SESSION OF COMITE MUST BE SUBSTANTIALLY WRITTEN OFF AND PROS AND CONS OF CONTINUATION OF COMITE NEXT YEAR ANALYZED. DECISION TO ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES TO DISCUSS A DEFINITION, CAUSES AND MEASURES IN THAT ORDER REINFORCES THIS VIEW.

5. THE PROS OF CONTINUING COMITE ARE THE SLIGHT HOPE THAT IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS A FEW AFRICANS CAN BE CONVINCED THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR IN ALLOWING COMITE TO BEGIN SERIOUS WORK. ONCE A CLEAR MAJORITY TO THIS END IS CONSTRUCTED, LONG PROCESS OF SEEKING AGREEMENT ON MEANINGFUL MEASURES CAN BEGIN. EXPERIENCE OF LAST 10 MONTHS DOES NOT PROVIDE A SECURE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM ON WHEN THIS THRESHOLD MAY BE REACHED, PARTICULARLY SINCE PRECEDENT OF THIS YEAR'S DECISION TO DISCUSS FIRST THE DEFINITION, THEN CAUSES AND THEN MEASURES WILL BE CITED.

6. THE CONS OF CONTINUING COMITE ARE IN THE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT IT WILL FESTER ALONG AND NOT ONLY PROVIDE NO USEFUL RESULTS, BUT EVENTUALLY BEGIN FOCUSING ON ""STATE TERRORISM"" AS A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED AND START PRODUCING, BY MAJORITY VOTE, CONDEMNATIONS OF PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL AND IAN SMITH AS THE CAUSERS OF TERRORISM AND/OR TURN INTO ANOTHER DEFINITION EXERCISE ALA AGGRESSION. THIS LAST POSSIBILITY IS ENHANCED BY COMITE'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A SUBCOMMITTEE ON A DEFINITION. CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF COMITE COULD ALSO FURNISH AN EXCUSE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS: WHEN THAT ITEM IS REACHED AT 28TH GA THEY COULD URGE ITS REFERRAL TO TERRORISM COMITE FOR STUDY ALONG WITH THE DEFINITION AND CAUSES. WE CAN ENVISION AN AFRO-ASIAN MAJORITY BEING WHIPPED UP TO THIS END. MOREOVER, COMITE IF IT CONTINUES, WILL PROBABLY END UP MEETING ALTERNATELY IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA, ADDING FURTHER TO FINANCIAL BURDEN OF UN. ANNUAL MEETINGS OF COMITE COULD THUS BECOME DIPLOMATICALLY AND FINANCIALLY EXPENSIVE
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PROCESS WITH GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF MISCHIEF THAN PROGRESS.

7. REGRETTABLY, WE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD EXPLORE POSSIBLE MEANS OF TERMINATING COMITE, WITH VIEW TO TRYING TO GAIN SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE FOR AGREEING TO ITS TERMINATION, THIS CONCLUSION IS SHARED ON PERSONAL BASIS BY FREELAND (UK), WHO INITIATED THE QUESTION WITH MISOFF, AND WANG (CANADA), WHO WAS PRESENT. OHTAKA (JAPAN) HAS ALSO

MADE SOME PERSONAL COMMENTS TO DELOFF INDICATING THAT THEY ARE BEGINNING TO THINK ALONG THESE LINES.

8. AT PRESENT ONLY STRONG SUPPORTERS OF FURTHER WORK ARE WEOS (EXCEPT FRANCE) AND LAS. ARABS AND SOME AFRO-ASIANS STILL REGARD COMITE'S EXISTENCE AS THORN IF NOT A REAL DANGER AND OTHER AFRO-ASIANS AS A CRUMB THEY THREW THE WEST AND THE SYG.

9. IN THIS MELIEU, WE HAVE SLIGHT CHANCE OF BEING ABLE TO EXACT A PRICE FOR ACQUIESCING IN COMITE'S TERMINATION. WE COULD ENVISION BEING GRUDGINGLY CONVINCED TO ACCEPT REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDS (A) RATIFICATION OF EXISTING CONVENTIONS, (B) GREATER DOMESTIC EFFORTS BY ALL STATES, AND POSSIBLY, (C) PARTICULAR EFFORTS IN ICAO CONTEXT AND (D) ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS AND (E) EVEN OTHER SPECIFIC PROJECTS WHICH GA OR ILC WISH TO EXAMINE.

10. ONE APPROACH TO SUCH A SCENARIO MIGHT BE TO EXPLORE WHETHER FRENCH (WHO ARE WILL REPRESENTED BY MUSEUX) WOULD BE WILLING TO FLOAT SUCH AN APPROACH WITH ARABS AND AFRICANS AS A WAY OUT, IMPLYING THAT THERE IS JUST A CHANCE IF RECOMMENDATIONS IN COMITE REPORT ARE REASONABLE THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING THE WEST ALONG. SOVIET UNION WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO JOIN FRENCH IF THEY THOUGH IT WOULD PLEASE AFRO-ASIANS.

11. DEPT'S VIEWS REQUESTED ASAP.
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